

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01977 301546 Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 CU-04 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

/093 W

----- 077524

R 301500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY SITUATION

REF: LISBON 1632; LISBON 1779

1. SUMMARY: TENSION AT THE LETTERS FACULTY HAS BEEN REDUCED BY GOVERNMENT'S MEETING SEVERAL STUDENT DEMANDS. ENGINEERING FACULTY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN SCENE OF UNREST AND ON MAY 29 FACULTY DECIDED CANCEL PRESENT SEMESTER. UNPRECEDENTED STEP REPRESENTS MEASURE OF FACULTY IMPATIENCE AT CONTINUED STUDENT TURMOIL. END SUMMARY

2. LETTERS FACULTY REOPENED FOR EXAMINATIONS WITHOUT INCIDENT ON MAY 24 FOLLOWING DECISION TAKEN BY FACULTY'S ACADEMIC BOARD WHICH REMOVED SECURITY GUARDS WHOSE PRESENCE ON NORMALLY PLACID CAMPUS HAD BROUGHT ABOUT SERIOUS POLICE- STUDENT CONFRONTATION EARLY IN MAY ( REFTELS). IN APPARENT ADDITIONAL EFFORT REDUCE TENSION, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE NAMED TO ACADEMIC BOARD.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01977 301546 Z

3. ENGINEERING FACULTY ( IST), WHOSE 5,000 STUDENTS WENT ON SYMPATHY STRIKE WITH LETTERS FACULTY IN EARLY MAY, REMAINS CLOSED AFTER FUTILE EFFORTS BY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR TO REOPEN. ACCORDING PROFESSOR, IST DIRECTOR HAS RECENTLY SENT SEVERAL CONCILIATORY LETTERS TO STUDENTS' HOMES REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL MEETINGS. THESE MEETINGS PRODUCED ONLY SMALL TURNOUT OF MILITANTS WHO REPEATEDLY VOTED TO CONTINUE STRIKE UNTIL LONG LIST OF GRIEVANCES-- INCLUDING RELEASE OF STUDENTS JAILED IN EARLY MAY STREET DISTURBANCES-- ARE MET. AT MOST RECENT MEETING ON MAY 25, 500 STUDENTS PRESENT VOTED 4 TO 1 TO REMAIN ON STRIKE.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY 30 FULL PROFESSORS WHO CONSTITUTE IST'S ACADEMIC BOARD APPROVED MOTION ( REPORTEDLY UNANIMOUSLY) RECOMMENDING CANCELLATION OF REMAINDER OF ACADEMIC YEAR, THEREBY REQUIRING STUDENTS TO REPEAT ALL WORK SINCE EASTER. ACCORDING PRESS, ON MAY 29 IST ADMINISTRATION CITING IMPOSSIBILITY OF RESOLVING IMPASSE, ACCEPTED ACADEMIC BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION AND ORDERED CANCELLATION OF 1972-73 SECOND SEMESTER. ONLY IST IS AFFECTED BY THIS MEASURE.

5. COMMENT: DEPRIVING STUDENTS OF CREDIT FOR ENTIRE SEMESTER OF SCHOOL YEAR, WHICH IS STEP WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN RECENT PORTUGUESE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE, INDICATES EXTENT OF FACULTY IMPATIENCE WITH WHAT MOST PROFESSORS CONSIDER EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES CHAMPIONED BY HANDFUL OF MILITANT STUDENT ACTIVISTS. REACTION OF VAST APOLITICAL MAJORITY OF PORTUGUESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CERTAIN TO BE SURPRISED AT STERN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FURTHER SLOWDOWN IN CAREER PREPARATION ALREADY ENCUMBERED BY 3 TO 4 YEAR MILITARY OBLIGATION.  
POST

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PINT, PO  
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LOURENCO MARQUES  
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